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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072002
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY AF/EPS: F H THOMAS/AF: W B EDMONDSON:MIL
APPROVED BY AF: W B EDMONDSON
AF/EPS: C CUNDIFF
AF/S: W EATON
IO: G HELMAN
EB: R KAUZLARICH
----------066785 210215Z /65
O R 210059Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072002

STADIS//////////////////
FOR MOOSE FROM EDMONDSON; CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ECON, SF

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FIVE POWER TALKS IN WASH-
INGTON ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

1. FIVE POWER TALKS IN WASHINGTON MARCH 16-17 TO DISCUSS
PROS AND CONS OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA
WERE USEFUL AND REVEALING. ALL FIVE AGREED IT IS IMPOR-
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PAGE 02 STATE 072002

TANT NOT TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY INITIATIVES OR UN
RESOLUTIONS WHICH MIGHT PUSH US INTO ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH
AFRICA WHICH WE COULD NOT OR SHOULD NOT SUPPORT. IT WAS
ALSO AGREED THAT NONE OF US WAS CONTEMPLATING A COMPLETE
ECONOMIC EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BUT POSITIONS BEYOND
THAT WERE EXTREMELY VARIED.

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2. THE FRENCH URGED THE GROUP TO ESTABLISH AN OVERALL PLAN OF COMMON OBJECTIVES AND TACTICS AND TO AGREE NOT TO TAKE ANY UNILATERAL ACTIONS. THEY ARGUED THAT WE MUST AVOID A "SECTORAL" APPROACH IN WHICH ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IN SEPARATE SECTORS SUCH AS PETROLEUM OR NUCLEAR TRADE AND SAID THAT ANY MEASURES TAKEN SHOULD NOT AFFECT PAST OR PRESENT TRADE/INVESTMENT CONTRACTS. WHEN PRESSED, THE FRENCH OFFERED TO JOIN OTHERS IN RESTRAINING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ONLY A FEW SELECT AREAS (E.G. LIMITING EXPORT CREDITS TO FIVE YEARS) WHICH APPEARED TO US WOULD HAVE LITTLE REAL EFFECT ON THEIR ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.
3. U.K. OFFICIALS NOTED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF BRITAINS INVESTMENT AND COMMERCIAL TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, CITED THE NEED TO HAVE "EQUALITY OF SACRIFICE," AND EMPHASIZED THAT BRITAIN COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE, REDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED EXPORT PROMOTION MEASURES, OR CURTAILMENT OF PUBLIC SUPPORTED CREDIT FACILITIES. THE BRITISH ALSO ASKED EVERYONE TO ESCHEW ANY UNILATERAL ACTION. GERMAN OFFICIALS SAW LITTLE THEY COULD DO, ASIDE FROM SOME POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN EXPORT CREDIT ACTIVITIES. THE CANADIANS NOTED CREDIT RESTRICTION AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN IN DECEMBER 1977 AND URGED OTHERS TO SUPPORT THEIR LEAD IN PHASING OUT PUBLIC SUPPORT OF TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

4. ON THE U.S. SIDE, WE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE GOAL
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OF COORDINATING OUR POSITIONS REGARDING PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC MOVES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, BUT INDICATED THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT AGREE TO AN IRON CLAD "LOCK STEP" APPROACH AMONG THE FIVE, ESPECIALLY IF THIS MEANT THAT THE ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED WOULD BE THE LEAST COMMON DENOMINATOR OF POSSIBLE MOVES. ALSO, NOTING THAT EACH GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA HAD UNIQUE FEATURES, WE SUGGESTED THAT IN SOME CASES IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO HANDLE RELATIONS WITH S.A. IN DIFFERING WAYS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO KEEP ONE ANOTHER FULLY APPRISED OF PLANNED ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM COORDINATION. CANADIANS GENERALLY AGREED WITH US.

5. WE DECLINED THE FRENCH DELEGATE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE FIVE POWERS AGREE ON THE SPOT TO OPPOSE ANY MOVE IN THE UN TO CALL FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S APARTHEID ACTIONS CONSTITUTED A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AS DEFINED UNDER CHAPTER 7 OF THE UN CHARTER. WE NOTED THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND DATA, NOT TO REACH FIRM AGREEMENTS, AND THAT CONSIDERATION OF SUCH POLICY QUESTIONS WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERA-

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

TION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. (THE UK AND GERMANY SEEMED
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WE AND THE CANADIANS SAID WE COULD NOT EXCLUDE SUCH ACTION
ABSOLUTELY UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD
ENTERTAIN ANY CONSIDERATION OF CHAPTER VII MOST
RELUCTANTLY.)

6. THE FRENCH THEN PRESSED FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF THE FIVE
BE HELD IN A FEW WEEKS TIME TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE HOW
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD RESPOND TO PENDING UN RESOLUTIONS.
WE AGREED TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER LATER. A FULL
REPORT OF THE MEETING IS BEING READIED FOR TRANSMISSION
TO INTERESTED POSTS. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 072002
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY
----------073465 211755Z /43
O 211728Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072002

STADIS//////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 072002, ACTION MOGADISCIO INFO LONDON
PARIS BONN CAPE TOWN OTTAWA USUN NEW YORK 21 MARCH:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072002

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PAGE 03 STATE 072002

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-0676
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: ECON, SF
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Type: TE
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